State / UT	Total No. Of Blocks	No. of DDP/DPAP/ITDP/DHA Blocks					
		DDP	DPAP	ITDP	DHA	Less-Overlapping	Total
Sikkim	4	-	-	4	-	-	4
Tamilnadu	384	-	43	9	4	-	56
Tripura	18	-	-	18	-	-	18
Uttar Pradesh	897	-	87	4	56	2	145
West Bengal	341	-	34	119	9	34	128
A & N Island	5	-	-	2	-	-	2
Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D & N Haveli	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Daman & Diu	2	-	-	1	-	-	1
Delhi	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	5	-	-	5	-	-	5
Pondicherry	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5196	143	602	1073	92	135	1775

The number of blocks in Uttar Pradesh is reported as 145 by state government erstwhile blocks equivalent of mandals identified in Andhra Pradesh is treated as 120. In Sikkim, districts have been taken as block equivalents, particularly, covered under ITDP. In J & K, the 23 addtional blocks approved for coverage under RPDS are shown under DHA. Summer-2

DDP - Desert Development Programme
DPAP - Drought Prone Area Programme
DHA - Designated Hill Areas
ITDP - Integrated Tribal Development Project

Incidence of Fibrosis/Silicosis in Mining Industry

*253. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made of the incidence of Fibrosis or Silicosis among the workers engaged in mining industry;

(b) if so, the level of incidence of such diseases in the country as a whole and among specific groups of workers such as those engaged in slate mining or beedi wrapping;

(c) whether any prevention or curation programme has been undertaken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) According to the information available with the Ministry, three studies on incidence of silicosis in mines were conducted as under:

(i) Study at Kolar Gold Fields in 1944

(ii) Study in Mica Mines in Bihar in 1953

(iii) Study in Mangnese Mines in 1960

The incidence of silicosis disease, as reported in these studies ranged between 4.0 to 43.7%. In addition, five surveys or Pneumoconiosis which includes fibrosis or silicosis were also conducted in coal and mica mines by different individuals/agencies during 1956 to 1980. The incidence of Pneumoconiosis reported in these surveys ranged between 4.8 to 18.8%.

No specific information about any study being undertaken to detect the incidence of these diseases in slate mines as well as in beedi wrapping is available.

The existing provisions under the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder already provide for the action required to be taken by the employer/occupier/owner of mines/factories for the health and safety of the workers and for

creation of an environment which could prevent occurence of any disease including fibrosis/ silicosis. Silicosis is a notifiable disease under both these Acts.

Projections of Foodgrains output and Storage

*254. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Navbharat Times' dated the 24th July, 1995 containing projections on foodgrains output, limited storage capacity of Food Corporation of India, swelling maintenance costs and excessive losses of foodgrains, while in storage, due to rodent population and other factors and consequent decline in per capita food consumption;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to make available more foodgrains through PDS network; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to bring down the maintenance costs of foodgrains by Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While the overall projection of foodgrain output and the difficulty of storage in the procuring states appear to be factually correct, the news-item has not correctly brought out the facts in respect of maintenance costs and the foodgrains losses in the Good Corporation of India. In the last three years the transit and storage shortages of foodgrains in the Food Corporation of India declined from 5.90 lakh metric tonnes (1.49%) in 1991-92 to 4.17 (0.95%) lakh metric tonnes in 1993-94. Similarly, administrative costs as a component of distribution cost incurred by FCI have gone down from Rs. 13.98 per quintal (11.6%) in 1992-93 to Rs. 10.62 (8.69% Provisional) in 1994-95. The daily per capita net availability of foodgrains has been moving in a narrow range of 464.4 grams to 474.2 grams in the last three years.

(c) Allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs under PDS/RPDS is made on the basis of assessed requirement, demand by the States/ UTs, trends in offtake and other relevant factors. At present the offtake is only 52% of the total allocation on all-India basis. While efforts are made to raise the level of offtake, there is no proposal at present for increasing the allocation to States/UTs across the board.

(d) The economise on the cost of maintaining buffer stock and for their better management, FCI has taken/been taking a number of steps like optimum utilisation of storage capacity, open sale of wheat/rice and export of foodgrains.

राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा बंगलादेश को चावल के निर्यात हेतु सौदा

255. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत महीनों के दौरान राज्य व्यापार निगम ने बंगलादेश को 50,000 टन चावल का निर्यात करने का सौदा किया था;

(ख) क्या इस सौदे में मध्यस्थता करने के लिए राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा किसी निजी संस्था की सेवाएं ली गई थीं;

(ग) क्या उन सेवाओं के लिये उक्त संस्था को प्रति टन 6.30 डालर की दर से कमीशन दिया गया था जबकि निगम को केवल 1 से 2 डालर का ही लाभ हुआ;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) उस निजी संस्था का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा संस्था के मालिकों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं और इस संस्था का चयन करने के क्या कारण थे?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी॰ चिदम्बरम): (क) और (ख) जी, हां।

(ग) से (ङ) एस टी सी ने अपने विविधीकरण, खासकर गैर माध्यमीकृत क्षेत्र में, प्रयासों के एक भाग के रूप में बंगला देश सरकार को चावल निर्यात करने के संबंध में अपने पहले करार को अन्तिम रूप दिया है। देय एजेंसी कमीशन भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा निर्धारित उच्चतम सीमा में था। एस टी सी ने बांग्ला देश में जिस विदेशी एजेंट की सेवाएं ली थीं उसका नाम है--मैसर्स आई पी एण्ड एफ सी, ढाका जिसके मालिक श्री अली अहमद हैं, जो अत्यन्त प्रभावशाली माने जाते हैं।

Re-constitution of Tobacco Board

*256. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: